

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Nicholas Ian SAUNDERS et al.

U.S. Serial No.: Filed Concurrently Herewith

Title of Invention: SIGNAL PROCESSING

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Mailing Label Number: EV073701287US

Date of Deposit: February 19, 2002

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box Patent Application (35 U.S.C. 111)
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Before the issuance of the first Office Action, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 5-11, 14-16 and 19 as follows:

5. (Amended) A system according to claim 3, wherein the compressed bitstreams comprise groups of intra frames and predicted frames, and if $|(V2-V1)|$ is greater than a first $(V2-V1)$

threshold, then the target bit rate is reduced by a small amount, and preserved transcoding parameters are reused on intra frames and at least some predicted frames.

6. (Amended) A system according to claim 4, wherein the groups of frames include I, P and B frames and I and P frames are recoded with reuse of the preserved parameters, and B frames are recoded without reusing preserved parameters

7. (Amended) A system according to claim 4, wherein if V_2 is less than a second threshold value $Th2$, which is less than the said first threshold $Th1$ then the target bit rate is reduced by a medium amount, and preserved transcoding parameters are reused on intra frames but not on predicted frames.

8. (Amended) A system according to claim 4, wherein if $|(V_2-V_1)|$ is greater than a second (V_2-V_1) threshold but less than a third (V_2-V_1) threshold then the target bit rate is reduced by a medium amount, and preserved transcoding parameters are reused on intra frames but not on predicted frames.

9. (Amended) A system according to claim 4, wherein if V_2 is less than a third threshold value $Th3$, which is less than the said second threshold $Th2$, then the target bit rate is reduced by a large amount, and preserved transcoding parameters are not reused on any frames.

10. (Amended) A system according to claim 4, wherein if $|(V_2-V_1)|$ is greater than said third (V_2-V_1) threshold then the target bit rate is reduced by a large amount, and preserved transcoding parameters are not reused on any frames.

11. (Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein stuffing bits are added to the bitstream if V_2 is tending towards overflow of the downstream buffer and/or V_2 differs from V_1 tending towards overflow.

14. (Amended) A system according to claim 12, wherein the said signal processor comprises one or more of: a store for storing the bitstream; and a communications channel for transferring the bitstream from the decoder to the encoder.
15. (Amended) A system according to claim 12, wherein the said signal processor comprises an editing apparatus.
16. (Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein the said signal processor comprises an intra-frame encoder to produce an intra frame bitstream, an intra frame signal processor and a decoder for decoding the processed intra frame bitstream to produce the said processed decompressed bitstream.
19. (Amended) A computer program product arranged to carry out the method of claim 17, when run on a programmable digital signal processing system.

Please add new claims 20-23 as follows:

20. (New) A system according to claim 1, wherein the said signal processor comprises one or more of: a store for storing the bitstream; and a communications channel for transferring the bitstream from the decoder to the encoder.
21. (New) A system according to claim 1, wherein the said signal processor comprises an editing apparatus.
22. (New) A system according to claim 12, wherein the said signal processor comprises an intra-frame encoder to produce an intra frame bitstream, an intra frame signal processor and a decoder for decoding the processed intra frame bitstream to produce the said processed decompressed bitstream.
23. (New) A computer program product arranged to carry out the method of claim 18, when run on a programmable digital signal processing system.

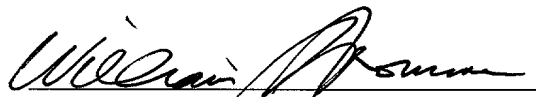
REMARKS

Claims 1-23 remain in the application. Claims 5-11, 14-16 and 19 have been amended to eliminate multiple dependencies. New claims 20-23 have been added. Attached hereto is a marked up version of the changes made to claims 5-11, 14-16 and 19 by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **"Version with markings to show changes made."** The filing fee has been calculated based upon these amendments to the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the claims:

5. (Amended) A system according to claim 3 ~~or~~ 4, wherein the compressed bitstreams comprise groups of intra frames and predicted frames, and if $|(V_2 - V_1)|$ is greater than a first $(V_2 - V_1)$ threshold, then the target bit rate is reduced by a small amount, and preserved transcoding parameters are reused on intra frames and at least some predicted frames.
6. (Amended) A system according to claim 4 ~~or~~ 5, wherein the groups of frames include I, P and B frames and I and P frames are recoded with reuse of the preserved parameters, and B frames are recoded without reusing preserved parameters
7. (Amended) A system according to claim 4, ~~5 or 6~~, wherein if V_2 is less than a second threshold value Th_2 , which is less than the said first threshold Th_1 then the target bit rate is reduced by a medium amount, and preserved transcoding parameters are reused on intra frames but not on predicted frames.
8. (Amended) A system according to claim 4, ~~5-6 or 7~~, wherein if $|(V_2 - V_1)|$ is greater than a second $(V_2 - V_1)$ threshold but less than a third $(V_2 - V_1)$ threshold then the target bit rate is reduced by a medium amount, and preserved transcoding parameters are reused on intra frames but not on predicted frames.
9. (Amended) A system according to claim 4, ~~5, 6, 7 or 8~~ wherein if V_2 is less than a third threshold value Th_3 , which is less than the said second threshold Th_2 , then the target bit rate is reduced by a large amount, and preserved transcoding parameters are not reused on any frames.
10. (Amended) A system according to claim 4, ~~5, 6, 7, 8 or 9~~, wherein if $|(V_2 - V_1)|$ is greater than said third $(V_2 - V_1)$ threshold then the target bit rate is reduced by a large amount, and preserved transcoding parameters are not reused on any frames.

11. (Amended) A system according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 10~~, wherein stuffing bits are added to the bitstream if V_2 is tending towards overflow of the downstream buffer and/or V_2 differs from V_1 tending towards overflow.
14. (Amended) A system according to claim 12 ~~any preceding claim~~, wherein the said signal processor comprises one or more of: a store for storing the bitstream; and a communications channel for transferring the bitstream from the decoder to the encoder.
15. (Amended) A system according to claim 12 ~~any preceding claim~~, wherein the said signal processor comprises an editing apparatus.
16. (Amended) A system according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 13~~, wherein the said signal processor comprises an intra-frame encoder to produce an intra frame bitstream, an intra frame signal processor and a decoder for decoding the processed intra frame bitstream to produce the said processed decompressed bitstream.
19. (Amended) A computer program product arranged to carry out the method of claim 17, ~~18 and/or 20~~ when run on a programmable digital signal processing system.